

In the Claims

The following Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for detecting concealed items on or in an object, the method comprising:
 - producing a pencil beam of x-rays from an x-ray source directed toward said object;
 - scanning said beam of x-rays over the surface of said object; and
 - detecting x-rays scattered from said beam of x-rays as a result of interacting with said object and a low Z material panel, said object located between said detector and said panel, said detecting comprising differentiating x-rays back scattered by the object from those back scattered by the low Z material panel,

wherein said pencil beam of x-rays is of sufficiently low energy to avoid detection if passing through the object after backscattering by the Z material panel.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising generating a signal representative of the intensity of the x-rays scattered.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising presenting said signal on a display.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said low Z material panel is made polyethylene.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said low Z material panel is made of epoxy.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said low Z material panel is made of water.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising a radiation shield coupled to said low Z material panel, said low Z material panel located between said object and said radiation shield.
8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein said radiation shield comprises an x-ray absorbing material.
9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein said x-ray absorbing material is steel.
10. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein said x-ray absorbing material is lead.
11. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein said radiation shield is about 1mm thick.
12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said low Z material panel is located above said object.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said low Z material panel is located below said object.

14. (Currently amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for detecting concealed items on or in an object, said method comprising:

producing a pencil beam of x-rays from an x-ray source directed toward said object;

scanning said beam of x-rays over the surface of said object; and

detecting x-rays scattered from said beam of x-rays as a result of interacting with said object and a low Z material panel, said object located between said detector and said panel, said detecting comprising differentiating x-rays back scattered by the object from those back scattered by the low Z material panel,

wherein said pencil beam of x-rays is of sufficiently low energy to avoid detection if passing through the object after backscattering by the Z material panel.

15. (Currently amended) An apparatus to detect concealed items on or in an object, the apparatus comprising:

an x-ray source to produce a pencil beam of x-rays directed toward said object;

a scanner to scan said beam of x-rays over the surface of said object; and

a detector to detect x-rays scattered from said beam of x-rays as a result of interacting with said object and a low Z material panel, said object located between said detector and said panel, said detector differentiating x-rays back scattered by the object from those back scattered by the low Z material panel,

wherein said pencil beam of x-rays is of sufficiently low energy to avoid detection if passing through the object after backscattering by the Z material panel.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15 further comprising a processor to generate a signal representative of the intensity of the x-rays scattered.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16 further comprising a display to display said signal.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein said low Z material panel is made of polyethylene.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein said low Z material panel is made of epoxy.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein said low Z material panel is made of water.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15 further comprising a radiation shield coupled to said low Z material panel, said low Z material panel located between said object and said radiation shield.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein said radiation shield comprises an x-ray absorbing material.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein said x-ray absorbing material is steel.
24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein said x-ray absorbing material is lead.
25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein said radiation shield is about 1mm thick.
26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein said low Z material panel is located above said object.
27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein said low Z material panel is located below said object.